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**Statement from Texas Motor Transportation Association President
On Gov. Perry's State of the State Address
*Applauds Call for Margins Tax Improvements***

AUSTIN – Texas Motor Transportation Association President and CEO John D. Esparza today released a statement on Gov. Rick Perry's State of the State address.

"I applaud Governor Perry's call to action regarding the Texas Margins Tax and the need for measurable improvement," said Esparza. "As the 81st legislative session progresses, it is imperative that our leaders look at all aspects of this tax and review the negative implications that have resulted.

"The tax, as it applies today, has complicated statute and equally complex interpretations impacting numerous Texas businesses. The trucking industry transports 82 percent of Texas' manufactured freight. We are a highly capital-intensive industry now hindered by the unintended consequences of the reformed business tax. Trucking is not afforded the relief available to many business sectors. The Texas economy rides on the back of trucks, and when we cripple trucking operations the entire state suffers.

"We ask that the legislature take direct action and recognize the incredible hardships placed on Texas businesses. This session, we must improve the system that is threatening so many service industries through innovative relief."

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TMTA is a trade organization dedicated to advocating sound public policies, providing excellence in education and training, and promoting a safe, dependable and cost-effective motor transportation system to better serve the people of Texas. One out of every 14 people working in the private sector is employed in a trucking-related job. Eighty-two percent of Texas communities receive their goods exclusively by truck.